

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 68, line 24 of the specification with the following paragraph:

It is noted that melanocortin receptor genes and proteins, and *in vitro* assays for determining melanocortin receptor activity are well known in the art. For example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,703,220 and 5,710,265 to Yamada et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,532,347 to Cone et al.; and PCT Publication WO 97/47316 and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,908,609 and 5,932,779 to Lee et al.; describe known melanocortin receptors MC1-R, MC2-R, MC3-R, MC4-R, and MC5-R and genes encoding such receptors, as well as *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays for identifying compounds which bind to and/or activate such receptors. Each of these patents and PCT publication is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, and particularly, with regard to disclosed methods for evaluating the activity of melanocortin receptors and the identification of compounds which bind to such receptors. However, none of the above-referenced patents or PCT publication discloses a method for identifying compounds useful for regulating body weight by identifying compounds which bind to, activate or inhibit activity of peripheral melanocortin receptors, and particularly, which preferentially bind to, activate or inhibit activity over central melanocortin receptors. Indeed, it is particularly noted that although the patents and PCT publication of Lee et al. are directed to identifying compounds for regulation of body weight, the target receptor of Lee et al. (i.e., MC4-R) is *directly opposite* of the target receptors of the present invention (i.e. MC2-R and/or MC5-R), since the methods of Lee et al. target the central mechanisms of energy homeostasis (e.g., appetite), while the present invention targets the peripheral mechanisms of energy homeostasis (e.g., lipolysis